



## SELECTED EVENTS - September to December 2007

### Leipzig Consulate Stages First "Meet US" Event in Gera



*Students thank Consul Backman*

**December 18, 2007.** Consul for Political and Economic Affairs Edith Backman and Information Resource Director (IRC) Director Thea Bohse-Ziganke gave a presentation to fifty 11th and 12th grade English students from the Zabel Gymnasium (High School) in Gera. The event at the Gera Public Library was a result of joint cooperation between Leipzig Consulate and the Gera Library staff. After an introduction by Library Director Manfred Graetz, Edith Backman gave a presentation on the 2008 U.S. elections and took questions from the students on the electoral process, the American way of life, and U.S. environmental policy. It was the first ever "Meet US" program conducted in Gera. The students gained exposure to American politics and culture, as well as the work of the Consulate and IRC services.

### Roundtable with German Non-Commissioned Officers in Leipzig



*Consul General Mark Scheland and non-commissioned officers at U.S. Consulate General Leipzig*

**December 13, 2007.** Briefings by Consulate General officers on the U.S. National Security Strategy have become a fixed element of the multi-week course for non-commissioned officers at the German Military (Bundeswehr) School in Delitzsch, Saxony. On December 13, over a dozen course participants and their instructor, all career military personnel of long experience, visited the Leipzig Consulate for a 90-minute roundtable discussion with Consul General Mark Scheland. Questions in the Q&A session focused on the U.S. electoral process, climate and energy policy, the International Criminal Court, Iraq and Iran.

### Klingenthal Students Visit Consulate



*Consul Mark Wenig talks to the Klingenthal students*

**December 13, 2007.** A group of 12 students and their teacher from the Julius Mosen Sports High School (Gymnasium) traveled to Leipzig from southern Thuringia to meet with Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig, who gave a presentation on the Consulate's activities and the current U.S. presidential campaign. The students came from a special sports school, which is a part of the Gymnasium located in Klingenthal, a regional winter sports center, and none had ever been to the U.S. Among the topics which interested them were Iraq, climate change, immigration policy and various aspects of life in the U.S.

### 'Season of Light' Celebrated at Leipzig High School



*Matthew Graham at Lutheran School Center*

**December 11, 2007.** U.S. storyteller and musician Matthew Graham performed songs and stories featuring seasonal celebrations such as Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and Divali in front of sixty 6th graders from secondary and high school classes at the Leipzig Lutheran School Center (Evangelisches Schulzentrum). The program was co-organized with school librarian, Mrs. Gunwald, who introduced Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and the artist to the group. In his celebration of winter holiday traditions from all over the world, Graham also put major emphasis on U.S. customs and culture. This interactive program, held in the school's library, was of great educational value as it underscored the richness of multicultural experiences.

## America @ Your Library Reaches Teachers and Journalists



*Librarian Ursula Isenberg and Consul Mark Wenig*

**December 10, 2007.** Leipzig Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig engaged in a dialog with six English teachers from the Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium at the Gardelegen public library in Saxony-Anhalt. Wenig focused on the upcoming U.S. presidential primaries, reviewed the Consulate's public diplomacy work and discussed his diplomatic career. He then took questions from the teachers, and presented several new books to the library director. Wenig also met with Gardelegen Deputy Mayor Klaus Richter and three local journalists, all from different regional newspapers, for more questions on U.S. related issues. During this time, Leipzig's Information Resource Center (IRC) director introduced IRC products, U.S. resources and websites to the teachers. In her welcome remarks, Library Director Ursula Isenberg emphasized her institution's long-standing working relationship with the Consulate.

## U.S. School System Introduced to Leipzig Students



*Kirsten Teschauer (left) and librarian Mrs. Jung with students*

**December 5, 2007.** American Consulate staffer Kirsten Teschauer lectured at the Moelkau Community Library to twenty 8th and 9th graders from a secondary school about the U.S. education system. She also took questions on U.S. society and discussed differences between the German and American school systems. Leipzig's Information Resource Center (IRC) director also briefly talked about U.S. resources and websites, and presented the 2008 "World Almanac" and a selected "World Book Encyclopedia" to the school library. The "Meet US" program at the Moelkau library, initiated in 2004 with a book donation, has become an annual event.

## Engaging Eastern German Youth in the Transatlantic Dialog



*Consul Mark Wenig and the students from Thuringia, Saxony and Berlin*

**December 3-4, 2007.** Consulate General Leipzig partnered with the Embassy's Exchanges Section and the Thuringian State Representation Office in Berlin in organizing the 4th "Building Bridges" Conference. Under the theme, "What is American? What is German? Youth Exploring Their Place and Identity in Society," the symposium gave some 150 German and American students from Thuringia, Saxony and Berlin a platform to meet and voice their opinions on such issues as social responsibility, national identity and public perception. In his welcome message, Ambassador William R. Timken Jr. told the youth, "you are the future of German-American relations," and urged them to actively participate in shaping transatlantic ties. The 4th Building Bridges Conference addressed ways to eliminate prejudice, presented the students with an opportunity to explore each others' cultures and ways of life, and provided them with a forum to

discuss civic responsibilities and common values, thereby injecting new life into the German-American partnership.

## Leipzig Continues American Day Tradition in Ore Mountain Region



*Consul General Mark Scheland during Q&A with Annaberg-Buchholz students*

**December 3, 2007.** Consul General Mark Scheland traveled to Annaberg-Buchholz for a series of "Meet US" discussions staged under the America@YourLibrary umbrella by and in the public library. The 3rd American Day was kicked off with a book donation to Lord Mayor Barbara Klepsch. During the subsequent event, the Consul General shared the podium with American tenor Craig Bermingham from the local theatre, who added his personal views to the official U.S. position. This way, some 50 students from all school types and their teachers discussed different angles of a wide variety of U.S. related political and social issues, and learned about ongoing Internet resources presented by Information Resource Center staff.



## Consul Opens Quedlinburg Art Exhibit



*Consul Mark Wenig (left), American artist Laurel Lueders and Martin Straka*

**November 30, 2007.** Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig delivered a greeting to approximately 100 people who attended the opening of an art exhibit at the Quedlinburg Castle Museum on the evening of November 30, displaying works by resident American artist Laurel Lueders and her German colleague, Martin Straka. Lueders, who has seen her abstract work successfully exhibited in New York three times this year alone, has made a significant artistic impact on historic city of Quedlinburg. The artists both stressed how collaborations of this type involving American and eastern German artists, have flourished since 1990. Among those in attendance was Quedlinburg Mayor Dr. Brecht.

## Leipzig Takes "Meet US" to Remote Area



*Consul Edie Backman (left) and teachers of Goethe-Gymnasium*

**November 29, 2007.** Consul for Political and Economic Affairs Edie Backman and Information Resource Center (IRC) assistant Mechthild Hoelker gave a presentation to the 12th grade at the Goethegymnasium in Kelbra, Saxony-Anhalt. It was Backman's first presentation as part of the program and the Consulate's first "Meet US" event at the school. The 80 students representing the entire 12th grade class were split up into two sessions of approximately 40 students each. After a brief presentation on "The American Dream," Backman answered questions ranging from immigration, racism, the environment, and Michael Moore to obtaining visas for study in the U.S., the U.S. school system, and her experiences in and impressions of Germany.

## Leipzig School Celebrates Louis Armstrong, "A Life for Jazz"



*Consul General Mark Scheland (left) and Detlef Ott, teacher at Mockau Secondary School*

**November 27, 2007.** November 27 marked the opening of the State Department's Louis Armstrong Poster Show at the 65th Secondary School in Leipzig-Mockau. Addressing 80 students, the school principal and an official from the Saxony Education Agency, Consul General Mark Scheland recalled Louis Armstrong as an American icon who became a part of world heritage, as well as the role of African-American performers in the civil rights movement. The students augmented the consulate-provided poster materials with GDR-era jazz memorabilia, including LP covers as well as ticket stub and newspaper article reproductions from Armstrong's three concerts in Leipzig in 1965. After opening the exhibit, the Consul General conducted a Q&A session in which 8th to 10th graders tested their English.

## Consul Discusses Range of U.S. Related Issues with Rodewisch Students



*Consul Mark Wenig (Left) and Principal Claus Peter Palme*

**November 26, 2007.** Leipzig Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig paid a visit to the Rodewisch vocational school (Berufsschulzentrum) in southern Saxony to meet with a total of 50 students split up in two groups. During the first presentation, which was followed by Q&A sessions and discussion, Wenig addressed global political hotspots, the fight against terrorism, consular work and how one joins the diplomatic service. In the second group, the Consul discussed the U.S. commitment to address climate change, and how the media, and particularly newspapers, are changing in the Internet age.

## Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving in Markkleeberg



Americans Nicole Simml (soprano) and Amy Wegge (pianist)

**November 24, 2007.** On November 24, Americans Nicole Simml (soprano) and Amy Wegge (pianist) reprised a recital of 20th Century American songs they had performed a year before at the Consul General's residence. The venue this year was the Linden Hall, a theatre in the City Hall of Markkleeberg. Over 70 official guests invited by the Consulate and the Lord Mayor of Markkleeberg joined a like number of paying customers in the audience. After the 75-minute performance, invited guests moved on to a buffet reception featuring turkey and sweet potatoes.

## U.S. Librarian Reaches out to Leipzig Librarians and Students



Regina Bruch and Jeffrey Garrett

**November 23, 2007.** U.S. librarian Jeffrey Garrett from Northwestern University Library, Evanston, IL, visited Leipzig and spoke at the Leipzig public library, Consulate General Leipzig's America@Your Library partner, and at the University of Applied Sciences (HTWK) about "Intercultural Aspects of Children's Literature." Twenty-five librarians from Leipzig and Chemnitz public and school libraries, welcomed by director Dr. Arne Ackermann, learned about the impact of youth literature on multicultural education. Afterwards, Garrett met Regina Bruch, English language instructor at HTWK, and lectured to her students studying publishing business and book selling.

## Authentic Thanksgiving Dinner in Dresden



Consul Wenig and chefs at the Best Western Airport Hotel

**November 22, 2007.** On Thanksgiving evening Leipzig Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig joined about 35 members of the Arizona Club in Dresden for a traditional American Thanksgiving dinner. Consul Wenig delivered a greeting about this unique U.S. holiday while the chefs at the Best Western Airport Hotel cooked up several turkeys and provided all the trimmings for the occasion. The Arizona Club, made up of citizens interested in the American west, meets monthly.

## What Makes America Tick?



From left: Dr. Werner Peters; Prof. Dr. Dietmar Herz, University of Erfurt; Consul General Mark Scheland

**November 20, 2007.** This question drew an overflow crowd of 130 to the Thuringia State Chancery to a reading and Q&A by U.S. expert, author and philosopher Dr. Werner Peters from his recently published book "Mystery U.S.A." Consulate General Leipzig had initiated the event in cooperation with deputy editor-in-chief Hartmut Löhr of the Thüringer Allgemeine Zeitung, a main sponsor of the Erfurt annual literature fair, "Herbstlese." In addition to the author, Leipzig Consul General Mark Scheland fielded questions from the audience once Peters had made clear "that Europeans must bid farewell to the idea that Americans should be like us" and that "the U.S. phenomenon will reveal itself to us only after we realize that we actually know nothing."

## Sachsen-Anhalt Teachers Learn about 2008 U.S. Election Process



*Ines Gonschoreck, Magdeburg Public Library, and Consul Mark Wenig, U.S. Consulate General Leipzig*

**November 15, 2007.** Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig addressed 22 high school teachers from all over the state of Saxony-Anhalt, on the subject of the upcoming U.S. presidential primaries and the November election. A subsequent Q&A session focused on American culture and way of life. The event was held at the Magdeburg Public Library, an American@YourLibrary partner institution. Wenig and Leipzig intern Eric O'Leary also helped break down some of the stereotypes about Americans and the United States that the teachers described as being held by their students. Information Resource Center (IRC) Director Thea Bohse also delivered a short presentation on IRC activities and information available to the teachers, such as the English Teacher's Newsletter. The event, the sixth in a row in what has now become an annual visit, was organized by library official Ines Gonschoreck.

## Trams, Trucks, and the Trail of a Saint in Thuringia



*Left to right: H.E. Jean Robert Saget, Ambassador of Haiti; U.S. Consul General Scheland; H.E. Horacio Hernan Sevilla Borja, Ambassador of Ecuador; the Honorable Matthias Doht, Lord Mayor of Eisenach; and the Honorable Jürgen Reinholz, Minister of Economics of the Free State of Thuringia at the Wartburg*

**November 14, 2007.** Consul General Scheland and Consul Edie Backman joined colleagues from many countries during the State of Thuringia's annual Consular Day on November 14, begun as each year with a greeting by Minister Gerold Wucherpfennig. The ambassadors to Germany of Ecuador, Haiti, Liechtenstein and Mali, consuls general of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Greece, Poland and Russia, and honorary consuls of nearly two dozen lands toured with State Minister for Economics Jürgen Reinholz and Mrs. Reinholz from the State Chancellery in Erfurt to the historic city of Gotha. There, Lord Mayor Kreuch and County Executive Giessmann acquainted the group with the city and region's economic renewal and cultural heritage. A streetcar trip from the city center through adjoining towns and forest led to Waltershausen, where with Mayor Brychcy the diplomatic representatives visited the specialty truck manufacturer Multicar. Later, the group toured the state exhibit in Eisenach's Wartburg Castle commemorating the 800th birth year of St. Elizabeth of Hungary and Thuringia. In their remarks to participants and members of the state's parliament and cabinet in a closing event at the chancellery in Erfurt, Minister-President Dieter Althaus and Consul General Scheland as Doyen Thuringia's most noteworthy international partnerships and events over the

of the Consular Corps reflected on past year.

## Consul General Speaks to Students of Leipzig Elementary School



*Consul General Mark Scheland and students from Hans-Christian-Andersen-School*

**November 13, 2007.** Consul General Mark Scheland gave a presentation on American schools to nearly 40 fourth grade students at Leipzig's public library branch in Volksmarsdorf, one of Consulate's America@YourLibrary partners. In conjunction with Consul General Scheland's presentation, he answered several questions about his diplomatic life and American culture, and US intern Eric O'Leary held an interactive session with the students on American geography and landmarks, highlighting the Consulate's Meet US program. The event underscored "International Education Week" and offered the school children, whose nearly 20 nationalities represent a diverse section of Leipzig, the first chance to meet with a diplomat. Dr. Arne Ackermann, Leipzig City Library Director, also attended the event and made opening remarks.



### 130 Chemnitz Students Attend Presentation on U.S. Elections



*Sunhild Kunze, Chemnitz Public Library, and Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig, U.S. Consulate General Leipzig*

**November 8, 2007.** Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and American intern Eric O'Leary gave presentations on the upcoming U.S. presidential elections, and examined cultural differences between the U.S. and Germany, before approximately 130 students from 3 different Gymnasien in Chemnitz. Several walk in members of the public also attended the 90 minute-session at the Chemnitz Public Library, an America@YourLibrary partner. The presentations were followed by a Q&A session that offered a concise look at the upcoming U.S. presidential primaries. Consul Wenig concluded the event by presenting two new U.S. books to a representative of the library, and he encouraged the students to visit the newly opened exhibit of paintings by U.S. musician Bob Dylan, at the Chemnitz Art Museum.

### Consulate Welcomes District Fulbrighters in Leipzig



*Peter Claussen, Cultural Attaché; U.S. Consulate General staffer Gabriele Schuckelt; Fulbright Teaching Assistants*

**November 7, 2007.** Consul General Mark Scheland, Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and visiting Cultural Attaché Peter Claussen, U.S. Embassy Berlin, welcomed 23 Leipzig consular district-based American Fulbright students and scholars at the Consulate. After presentations by the American officers on the work of the Mission, including on the "Meet US" school outreach program, the group posed questions and an interesting discussion ensued. The day concluded with a guided tour of the Contemporary Forum's new permanent exhibit on German postwar history, with a focus on the division of Germany.

### Double Header in Bautzen Exposes Eastern Saxon Town to "Real America"



*Consul Wenig and his wife Kjarstin*

**November 6, 2007.** Leipzig Consulate reached out to nearly 100 high school students, teachers, and librarians in Bautzen, Saxony. A morning session at the youth library, located at the "Steinhaus" community center, consisted of an introduction to the diplomatic life by Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig, presented to 25 local elementary school students, followed by a bilingual reading of "Ronja Räubertochter" (The Robber's Daughter) by the youth library director, accompanied by Wenig's wife, Kjarstin.

### Consul General Addresses Leipzig International School Re-opening



*Children of International School Leipzig*

#### **November 1, 2007**

Consul General Mark Scheland was one of several speakers who addressed at a "Re-opening Ceremony" held at the Leipzig International School (LIS). The event officially opened the school's new 13.5 million Euro building and campus. Since opening in 1992, the school and the Consulate have enjoyed a close relationship, with a former Consul General, Todd Becker, playing an important role in the school's founding. LIS has also received annual financial support from the United States Government for teaching materials and American staff expenses, as well as more recent significant support for security upgrades. Among his other comments in support of international education, Scheland also stressed that a high

caliber international school was key to helping Leipzig attract international investment. This event was attended by several local leaders from both the public and private sectors, including Saxony Minister President Georg Milbradt.

## Consul Wenig Addresses Students in Lichtenstein



*Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and students of Schneider Gymnasium, Lichtenstein*

**October 26, 2007.** Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig addressed about 50 students and their teacher at the Dr. M. Schneider Gymnasium in the Saxon city of Lichtenstein. After giving a brief overview of the Consulate and its work, Wenig reviewed the 2008 U.S. presidential election process and discussed other aspects of U.S. life. Information Resource Center (IRC) staffer Mechthild Hoelker gave a presentation on IRC services and materials.

## Ambassador Timken Addresses Business Students in Leipzig



*Ambassador William R. Timken, Jr.*

**October 24, 2007.** Ambassador William R. Timken, Jr. addressed a group of MBA and general business students at the Leadership Seminar of the Handelshochschule (Leipzig School of Management or HHL). The Ambassador discussed his own management experiences at both the Timken Company and the U.S. Mission to Germany, telling the students to have confidence in themselves, their abilities and their decisions, and to not be afraid to take risks.

## Consul General Represents U.S. at Re-opening of German National Treasure



*The renovated Anna Amalia Library in Weimar*

**October 24, 2007.** The Anna Amalia Library in Weimar, one of Germany's most famous cultural treasures which was destroyed by a devastating fire in 2004, officially re-opened its doors on October 24 amid widespread national attention. German Federal President Horst Koehler delivered the keynote address at the festive commemoration before 1200 prominent guests from all over Germany, who celebrated the library's literal rise like phoenix from the ashes. Consul General Mark Scheland, as U.S. representative at the event, was briefly shown during the national broadcast. In his speech, Thuringian Minister President Dieter Althaus also mentioned the U.S. based Getty Foundation, as a donor to the library's restoration.

## Focus on Transatlantic Business Ties



*(From left) Consul Mark Wenig and Kirsten Teschauer, US Consulate General*

**October 19, 2007.** A group of 20 students visited the Consulate to learn about German-American business relations in the Leipzig Consulate General district. The group included students from the Hochschule Anhalt in Bernburg (Anhalt University) and some American students who are involved in an on-line MBA Program with the Georgia State University system. They discussed challenges and opportunities in attracting more American investment to the region with Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and Consulate staffer Kirsten Teschauer.

## Current Issues in U.S. Library Work



*Prof. Wendy Pradt Lougee at Leipzig's University of Applied Sciences*

**October 15, 2007.** Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig hosted a luncheon for Prof. Wendy Pradt Lougee from University of Minnesota Libraries, at which he and his Information Resource Center (IRC) director discussed joint German-American projects and Web 2.0 developments with directors and representatives from Leipzig's major libraries. In the afternoon, Mrs. Lougee addressed a highly interested group of about fifty first and third semester students of library and museum science at the University of Applied Sciences in Leipzig.

## Consul for Public Affairs Visits Line Dancers in Quirla



*The line dancers*

**October 13, 2007.** Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and his wife Kjarstin were the guests of the Bollberano Dance Boots Line Dancing Festival on the evening of October 13 in Quirla, Thuringia. The event brought together about 150 line dancers from several local clubs, and the Consul gave a greeting from the Consulate in support of western line dancing to popularize in Germany this form of American dancing.

## Consul for Public Affairs Honors WWII U.S. Flight Crew in Eisenberg



*(Photo left to right: Kjarstin Spangerg Wenig, PAO Mark Wenig, Eisenberg Lord Mayor Ingo Lippert and Jörg Petermann of the Cultural Office, Eisenberg)*

**October 13, 2007.** Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and his wife Kjarstin made a visit to a memorial near the Thuringian city of Eisenberg, to honor a member of a B-17 Flying Fortress crew, who was killed with 7 of his fellow crew members, when the aircraft went down in February, 1945. The visit took place at the request of the last surviving relative of Staff Sgt. Raymond Reiss, who asked that Reiss be honored on what would have been his 81st birthday, Oct 13. This message was relayed to Leipzig through Frankfurt Consul General, Jo Ellen Powell. The aircraft hit a hillside after a midair collision, as the pilot struggled to maneuver the plane away from Eisenberg and other populated areas, saving many lives.

## Consul Wenig Welcomes New American Studies Students to the Consulate



*Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and students from the American Studies Department of Leipzig University*

**October 2, 2007.** On their first day at Leipzig University, Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig welcomed 45 students of new entering class in American Studies to the Consulate to discuss with them the work of the consulate and the student's motivation to study U.S. culture, society and politics. The visit was part of an Orientation Week co-financed by Consulate General Leipzig, which seeks to introduce the students not only to the course of their studies, but also to the broader American community in Leipzig and to various research facilities, such as the Information Resource Center (IRC).



## Consul General Leipzig Speaks at Ilmenau's October 3 Celebration



*Robert Buckman, Mayor of Blue Ash*

**October 2, 2007.** Consul General Mark Scheland, joined by Consulate staff, visited Ilmenau to deliver a speech at the festivities on the occasion of October 3 and to meet with a delegation from Ilmenau's sister city, Blue Ash, OH. The delegation from Blue Ash, headed by the city's Mayor, included state legislators, city officials, teachers, and business people. The group was complemented by the Mayor of Ilmenau and a member of the Bundestag. In the discussion, which focused on possible ways to strengthen the partnership of five years, Consul General Scheland conveyed helpful ideas on possibilities and channels for educational and business cooperation. In the ensuing festivities, Consul General Scheland's speech focused on freedom and liberty as concepts and experiences that

unite Americans and Germans. He emphasized to an audience of some 400 that the peaceful revolution in East Germany, in some ways, shared goals with the American Revolution.

## Consulate General Leipzig Welcomes Future Journalists to DVC with Media Experts



*Digital Video Conference with Joe Misiewicz at the Consulate General*

**September 27-30, 2007.** Consulate General Leipzig supported the national "Youth Media Days" ("Jugendmedientage") in Leipzig. On September 28, a group of 20 students and future journalists came to the Consulate to discuss, via Digital Video Conference (DVC), the "Future of Media," with Joe Misiewicz, a professor at Ball State University in Indiana. The students, who hailed from all areas of Germany, engaged in a lively discussion with Prof. Misiewicz. The focus was on new media technologies and their impact on how information is selected and processed, which no longer is as passive reception. In Web 2.0, users become ever more active players in the global

network of communication and information. The 20 participants were welcomed and introduced to the Consulate by Consul General Mark Scheland, Consulate staffer Zoe Kusmierz and American intern Eric O'Leary, and they actively discussed current issues in politics and transatlantic relations with the Consul General.

## American Day in Goerlitz



*Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and Dr. Birgit Dippe, head of Goerlitz language school ESO and Europa-Library*

**September 26, 2007.** The traditional "American Day" in the border city of Goerlitz was celebrated with programs which took place at Consulate's America@YourLibrary partner "Europa-Library" and at a local elementary school. During two lively presentations and Q&A sessions with eleven 11th grade students from the Curie-Gymnasium and 25 students from the Goerlitz language school, Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig explained Consulate's work and programs, reviewed the diplomatic career track and discussed U.S. policy. Dr. Birgit Dippe, head of the language school and the Europa-Library, who had just returned from her Department of State's "International Visitor Leadership Program," spoke about her newly gained U.S. experiences. Leipzig's Information Resource Center (IRC) director spoke about services and products offered by the IRC, provided the CD-ROM "About the USA," and donated several new books to the library.

Consul Wenig's wife, Kjaerstin Wenig, held two bi-lingual readings of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" with fifty 3rd graders at Elementary School No. 1, assisted by their English language teaching assistant.

## Consulate General Leipzig in Magdeburg to Honor Steuben



*Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and Magdeburg Lord Mayor, Dr. Lutz Truemper at the Consulate's booth (from left)*

**September 22, 2007.** Consul for Public Affairs, Mark Wenig, was among those speaking at a morning ceremony in the city of Magdeburg, held in front of a statue of General Friedrich Wilhelm Baron von Steuben. Steuben, a hero in George Washington's Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War, who was born in Magdeburg 277 years ago, was honored before a gathering of local citizens, members of the German American Dialogue Center, and a local musical band. He also laid a wreath from the Consulate at the foot of the statue. In the afternoon, Wenig and Consulate staffers took part in the opening day of Magdeburg's intercultural week. Consulate General Leipzig partnered with the German-American Dialog Center Magdeburg to staff an information booth, which contributed to the overall motto, "Language is Diversity," by presenting material about American English and U.S. culture and society.

## U.S. Consul General Opens Weinfest in Meissen



**September 21, 2007.** The Meissen “Weinfest” opened with a great international get-together that included delegations from four of Meissen’s sister cities, including Provo, Utah. Headed by their mayor, some 36 people from Provo journeyed to Meissen to rekindle a partnership that began 6 years ago. Following opening words by the mayor of Meissen, Consul General Mark Scheland addressed the public of Meissen and the Provo delegation, focusing on the great cultural tradition Meissen celebrates with its now well-known annual wine festival, and the shared sense of industriousness that the people of Meissen and Provo have exhibited in building their communities. The Weinfest in Meissen attracted about 50,000 visitors this year, and has become a major annual cultural event in the Dresden region.

*Bernd Markus, Moderator; Mark Scheland, Consul General, Leipzig; Olaf Raschke, Lord Mayor of Meissen (from left)*

## Meet US in Meiningen Public Library



**September 20, 2007.** Consulate General Leipzig reached out to fifty southern Thuringia students (grade 12) and 5 English teachers, all from the Kaltensundheim Gymnasium. Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig spoke about the upcoming U.S. presidential election process, and U.S. intern Eric O’Leary, who has lived several years in Germany, talked about his home state of Montana, and discussed cultural differences between the U.S. and Germany. The director of Leipzig’s Information Resource Center introduced products and services offered by them, and donated a small book collection to the library. A lively and interesting Q&A session followed, involving a group exercise, which covered many aspects of U.S. politics and culture.

*The students and their teachers at Meiningen Public Library. Center: Consul Mark Wenig; Right: U.S. intern Eric O’Leary*

## Consulate Leipzig Information Resource Center Reaches out to New Audience



**September 18, 2007.** The America@YourLibrary initiative launched a first-ever presentation for nearly 40 elementary school teachers at the Erfurt Public Library, a joint venture with the library and the Thuringia school authorities, and a first in a series of planned teacher workshops. This presentation successfully combined elements of the different programs run by the Consulate to give an overview of the capabilities that these programs offer to libraries, schools and teachers. To display the previously attained partnership, the library also put on display books donated by the Consulate, complimented by their own acquisitions. The event generated additional interest for future consulate programs that could be offered.

*U.S. intern Eric O’Leary talks about American holidays*

## Deputy Chief of Mission Speaks at BUGA "American Day"



*U.S. intern Eric O’Leary; Consul General Mark Scheland; Lord Mayor of Gera, Dr. Norbert Vornehm; Deputy Mayor of Fort Wayne Mark Becker and his wife; Deputy Chief of Mission John M. Koenig (From left)*

**September 15, 2007.** The BUGA (Federal Garden Show) in Gera hosted an “American Day” to celebrate 15 years of Gera’s sister city partnership with Fort Wayne, Indiana. Over 70 guests from Ft. Wayne were also present and welcomed by Deputy Chief of Mission John M. Koenig, during the opening ceremony, which was also attended by Consul General Mark Scheland and Consul for Public Affairs, Mark Wenig. Organized by the city of Gera and the Gera-Fort Wayne Sister City Committee, both “American Day” at the BUGA and the “American Night” which followed at a local hotel, brought a diverse German-American program to the BUGA visitors. A consulate booth run by consulate staff provided information on Mission Germany products and services, as well as books about the U.S.

## "America is not at War with Islam"



Farah Pandith

### September 10, 2007

One day before the 6th anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center, Farah Pandith, Senior advisor in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, delivered this poignant message to six representatives from the Leipzig regional media, as well as Eurient, an organization fostering dialogue between Europeans and Muslims. While painting a picture of a vibrant Islamic life in America, Pandith characterized the struggle between ethnic heritage and national identity as the one consistent element linking the very diverse spectrum of European Muslims. Herself a very-well integrated Muslim in America who felt called upon to "serve her country" after 9/11, Farah Pandith effectively outlined the Administration's efforts at building bridges with Muslims in Europe.

## Conveying U.S. National Security Policy to German Career Soldiers



The group of the Officer College, Dresden, and Consul General Mark Scheland (center)

**September 5-7, 2007.** Through liaison efforts by Cultural Affairs Specialist Gabi Schuckelt, Consulate General Leipzig expanded its reach with the Bundeswehr (German military). On September 5, Consul General Mark Scheland addressed a class of non-commissioned officers visiting from the Offizierschule des Heeres (Officer College) in Dresden, the first-ever visit to the consulate by students from the college. On the 7th, Consul General Scheland traveled for the second time this summer to the Non-Commissioned Officer School in Delitzsch, north of Leipzig, to conduct a similar briefing and Q&A session with experienced Bundeswehr personnel, many of whom have served or will shortly serve in international missions in Afghanistan or the Balkans. In both briefings, the Consul General explained the foundations of the U.S. National Security Strategy 2006, as well as the cooperation between diplomacy and the military, in the conduct of U.S. foreign policy.

## Consul General Leipzig Welcomes American CBYX Students



Birgit Kämmer, Cultural Affairs Assistant, welcomes the American students; Gerd Czock, Partnership International e.V. (left)

**September 5, 2007.** Consul General Mark Scheland introduced a group of 55 American high school students - mainly from the southwestern U.S. - who are participating in this year's Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program to the structure and duties of an American Consulate. The visit to the Consulate was part of a four-week orientation program which introduces the young Americans to the German language and culture before they depart for their host families. Some of the students will spend their year in the Leipzig Consular District.